



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nikhil Mehta, or [nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov](mailto:nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov)  
727/824-5305, FAX 727/824-5308  
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

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FB15-070

## Notice of Availability for Public Comments on Changes Proposed for Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper-Grouper *Comment Period Ends November 16, 2015*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic and Amendment 33 to the FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33). The Notice of Availability for public comment on this amendment published in the *Federal Register* on **September 17, 2015 (80 FR 55819)**. Comments are due by **November 16, 2015**.

The management measures in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 address dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested by recreational fishers in The Bahamas and brought to the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

### Proposed management measures

If approved by NOAA Fisheries, Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 would:

- Allow recreational fishermen to bring fillets of dolphin and wahoo from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ and update regulations that currently allow recreational fishermen to bring snapper-grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. EEZ.
- Specify two fillets are equivalent to one fish for dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species brought into the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas.
- Require fishers to retain skin on the entire fillet of dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species.
- Require fishing gear to be stowed while transiting through the U.S. EEZ from The Bahamas. A vessel carrying fillets of dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested in Bahamian waters would not be allowed to stop in the U.S. EEZ during the transit.
- Require stamped and dated passports, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits to prove that the recreational fishers were indeed in The Bahamas.

- Not allow recreationally caught dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper from The Bahamas to be sold or purchased in the U.S.
- Not exempt recreational fishermen from any other Federal fishing regulations such as fishing seasons, recreational bag limits, size limits, and prohibited species.

### **Request for Comments**

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than **November 16, 2015**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

### **Addresses**

Electronic or hardcopies of the proposed rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:
- [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/generic/2015/dw7\\_sg33/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/generic/2015/dw7_sg33/index.html). The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOA-A-NMFS-2015-0047>, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** Nikhil Mehta  
NOAA Fisheries  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible.

NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

**More Information**

For more information on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/generic/2015/dw7\\_sg33/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/generic/2015/dw7_sg33/index.html)